

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

Hurricane Katrina

SITUATION REPORT #16

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 15, 2005 To 0700 Hours September 16, 2005

WEATHER

Forecast:

Mostly cloudy today across the Commonwealth with high temperatures in the mid to upper 80's, possibly reaching the low 90's in some areas. Overnight lows will range from the mid 60's to low 70's.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation:

Due to termination of all watches and warnings for Virginia concerning Tropical Storm Ophelia, the Virginia EOC has returned to Hurricane Readiness Condition 5 as of 0500 hours on September 16.

State of Emergency:

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a limited state of emergency within the Commonwealth on August 31, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC) to coordinate state relief efforts in response to Hurricane Katrina. Governor Warner announced Virginia is offering to shelter a minimum of 4,000 evacuees. The Governor requested a Presidential disaster declaration on September 6, 2005 to assist with Virginia's relief effort. The President approved Governor Warner's request for an emergency declaration on September 10, 2005. The incident period will begin on August 29, 2005 authorizing 100% federal funding for Public Assistance Category B (emergency protective measures). The assistance is for all 95 counties and 40 independent cities in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Protective Actions:

Local EOC Activations: None at this time.

Local Emergency Declared: None at this time.

Evacuations: Localities across the Commonwealth are receiving evacuees from the Gulf States. The American Red Cross, voluntary organizations, and state agencies are providing assistance, such as food, clothing, and shelter, to the evacuees.

Schools Closed: None

Town Pickett:

Governor Warner has directed the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a shelter and recovery assistance center for people relocated to Virginia by FEMA. The reception center has been established at Fort Pickett near Blackstone and is known as "Town Pickett". The facility can house up to 1000 people at a time and will be supplemented by facilities at the nearby Blackstone United Methodist Center. The American Red Cross will manage the shelter with assistance from several state agencies. The recovery assistance center, set up in separate buildings near the shelters, will provide evacuees the opportunity to talk with representatives from several state and federal service programs. In addition to the FEMA disaster assistance services, the center's staff can help with housing, Medicaid, Social Security, unemployment assistance and employment referrals, Veterans Affairs, legal or tax concerns and crisis counseling. Evacuee admittance to the shelter and recovery assistance center has been temporarily suspended due to the threat of Tropical Storm Ophelia. Town Pickett is prepared to receive evacuees sent to Virginia by FEMA once Hurricane Ophelia's threat has passed. The sheltering facility is not for evacuees currently in Virginia.

OPERATIONS SECTIONS

State Warning Point: Continuing to receive and disseminate situation reports from impacted Gulf States.

Local Liaison: No information at this time.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

Firefighting (ESF 4): **Virginia Department of Fire Programs (VDFFP)**
Providing 3 staff members to assist with EMAC and 1 staff member to assist with Legislative Affairs.

Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP)

Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least 1 person is assisting in each of the agency's 6 Regional Offices as necessary to assist with crew deployment and support. One person is assisting the State of Mississippi to prepare a pre-suppression wildfire plan to address the added danger posed by the hurricane debris. A total of 64 personnel deployed to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief. Including a 20-person crew initially assigned to Marietta, GA for Hurricane Ophelia response has been diverted to Mississippi to assist with Hurricane Katrina relief, a 20-person crew providing emergency related community assistance in the Town of Ocean Springs, MS, six 3-person chainsaw crews clearing roads near Laurel, MS, 1 person is serving as an Equipment Manager over rental/leased recovery equipment in Houston, TX, and 5 personnel have been deployed in single resource positions on Type 1 IMT's in Meridian, MS and Baton Rouge, LA. **A 20-person crew coordinating food and water distribution near Hammond, LA are returning to Virginia.**

Health & Medical (ESF 8): **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**
There are a total of 37 personnel deployed to the Gulf area. **Virginia Disaster Medical Assistance Team (DMAT) 1 is fully operational with 35 personnel at Crosby Memorial Hospital in Picayune, they are providing triage, primary care, and assisting in emergency medical trauma care coverage.** There are also 2 Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) personnel, deployed on September 9th in support of DMORT operations and 1 VDH Public Information Officer deployed to Texas on September 8th in support of FEMA. **The VA-1 DMAT Medical Control Center number is 1-601-749-3106. Town Pickett VDH staff standing down through the upcoming weekend, recall procedures established.** VDH compiled a list of evacuee bed availability for Virginia-based long-term care facilities and they are continuing to field offers for evacuee support from hospitals and long term care facilities. **Division of WIC and Community Nutrition Services has published enhanced guidelines addressing servicing evacuee families. VDH is assisting local health departments by providing immunizations for authorized deployers and local evacuee families.** Local Health Districts are coordinating with partner agencies in support of self-deployed and private source assisted evacuees. 14 Medical Reserve Corp groups, including 64 personnel have been deployed. 20 people are located in the affected area, 44 are supporting operations in Virginia, and approximately 200 are on standby. Southwest MRC is sending a volunteer Spanish interpreter through ARC PEER Program to Baton Rouge this week. The Loudoun Foundation sent a team to LA on September 13th (includes 3 Drs, 2 RNs, 2 CNAs, and 1 Coordinator) through FEMA. Continuing organization of PH teams (e.g. Office of Drinking Water, Environmental Health Services, and others) to standby for deployment upon request. VDH is preparing to vaccinate designated SAR Teams.

Virginia Department of Mental Health (VDMH)

Providing crisis counseling to evacuees at Town Pickett.

Virginia Department of Rehabilitative Services (VDRS)

Link evacuees needing special assistance to appropriate resources at Town Pickett.

Search & Rescue (ESF 9):

VDEM Search and Rescue (SAR)

3 cadaver dog teams are en route home from Hancock County, MS.

**Public Safety & Security:
(ESF 13)**

Virginia State Police (VSP)

Preparing law enforcement personnel for possible deployment and making plans to formulate a 2nd tactical field force. Supporting perimeter security at Town Pickett.

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

EMAC notification at 1932 hours on September 13th, all National Guard Troops and assets on the ground in Louisiana have been extended until September 30th. Presently there are 402 National Guardsmen deployed to the Gulf area. 68 members of the 222nd Quarter Master Unit and Air Guard's 203rd Red Horse Unit were deployed on September 9th to provide potable water service in the French Quarter in New Orleans. 111 National Guardsmen arrived on September 5th to provide Military Police Service in the Lake Charles area. 223 National Guard personnel are conducting security and relief operations in Gulf Port, Mississippi under the operational control of the 38th Infantry Division (EMAC). Field Headquarters Virginia Joint Operations Center (JOC) are developing future capabilities, support packages and continue planning for potential future security operations. VNG is also supporting efforts at Town Pickett.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

**Agriculture & Natural
Resources (ESF 11):**

Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)

Continue to track consumer reports of alleged gasoline price gouging and half-pricing through its hotline number: 1-800-552-9963. Citizens in the Richmond area may contact 1-804-786-2042. To date 105 calls have been received relative to alleged price gouging and 20 other calls alleging miscellaneous motor fuel complaints, such as half-pricing discrepancies, failure to deliver correct amount of fuel, and signage issues.

Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)

Supporting efforts in Town Pickett.

Mass Care (ESF 6):

Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS)

Staffing and logistics are set up for processing evacuees for service intake and benefit programs upon arrival at Town Pickett. 247 state and local social service employees are in a database to serve either one-week in Virginia or two weeks in the impacted region if called upon. Directing local offices to refer evacuees to local chapter of American Red Cross (ARC) and provide FEMA teleregistration number. After screening by ARC, DSS will process evacuees into appropriate program. **A total of 1,140 households are enrolled in an emergency health care program known as 'e-medicaid', administered by DSS and DMAS.** DSS has provided guidelines to localities for providing assistance to evacuees. **The DSS Hotline 1-800-777-8293 is setup for Faith and Community Based Groups to offer temporary housing, food, and transportation for evacuees; the hours are now 8 am – 5 pm weekdays only.** 200 organizations have been entered into the database.

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

Delivered laptops to supply classrooms at Town Pickett. **Local divisions are reporting a total of 850 evacuee students enrolled in Virginia Public Schools.**

State Council of Higher Education Virginia (SCHEV)

Provided a link for displaced students that offers information on colleges and universities throughout the Commonwealth that are accepting enrollment. The website is: www.schev.edu/students/responsetokatrina.asp.

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (VDHCD)

The Hurricane Housing Transition Center at VDHCD is up and running and accepting calls at 1-804-225-8989. They are tasked with matching families with available housing in the community. VDHCD is supporting efforts at Town Pickett. **The housing clearinghouse set up by VDHCD has over 300 listings.**

Virginia Employment Commission (VEC)

More than 400 applicants have applied for Disaster Unemployment Assistance.
Supporting Town Pickett with unemployment assistance and employment referrals.

American Red Cross (ARC)

The American Red Cross has 2,482 open cases and has assisted 5,734 individuals. Many evacuees are staying either in hotels or in the homes of relatives or friends. Many others are being brought into Virginia and cared for by employers and churches. The largest numbers of evacuees are in Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia. No shelters have been reported open in Virginia at this time. The Greater Richmond Area Red Cross and the Petersburg Chapter are set up to process evacuees arriving at Fort Pickett. ***For people who have been placed in hotels by Red Cross, the covered stay has been extended from 14 days to 28 days.***

Citizen Corps

Volunteers are assisting with local emergency management efforts in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts across the state. Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers have been deployed through their local Red Cross chapters. These deployments include CERT volunteers from Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.

Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)

Liaison between Town Pickett and their member agencies including faith based and community volunteer agencies. The United Methodist Church is supplementing Town Pickett at Blackstone United Methodist Center.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

Transportation (ESF 1):

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

36 Tiger Teams are on standby to assist with road debris removal and road repairs, as well as an advanced assessment team that will coordinate operations and communications.

Telecommunications & IT (ESF 2):

Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)

Developing an implementation plan for remaining communication needs. Cell Towers being installed to address spotty coverage at Town Pickett.

Energy Group (ESF 12):

Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (DMME)

EPA extended the waiver on use of +500 per million sulfur, dyed diesel fuel in Virginia and other eastern and southeastern states through midnight, October 5th. EPA extended the Richmond RFG waiver through midnight, September 23rd. No widespread fuel shortage in the state. Continuing to monitor fuel supply closely.

LOGISTICS SECTION

Resource Support (ESF 7):

VDEM/FEMA

The VEOC has been augmented with additional staffing from VDFP, VSP, DHRM, and DHS/FEMA. ***Coordinating 77 open requests*** through Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Posting EMAC requests for state and/or local agency response on the Online EOC. ***Currently supporting 8 EMAC missions in Louisiana and 5 in Mississippi.*** Awaiting responses from requesting states on 45 proposals to respond to EMAC missions. The six member Virginia Community Relations Team reported to the Baptist Hospital in Mississippi to work with FEMA Community Relations Team partners and Department of Justice representatives assigned to ride along to designated counties. All teams deployed to the field to contact local emergency managers, and visit evacuation shelters, churches, and hotels housing evacuees. VDEM is staffing an Evacuee Reception Center/Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) at Fort Pickett (referred to as Town Pickett).

Virginia Department of General Services (VDGS)

Supporting efforts at Town Pickett.

PLANNING SECTION

Emergency Management: (ESF 5)

VDEM

Continuing to update, produce and distribute daily situation reports and Incident Action Plans. Analyzing information from available sources and providing briefings to Command Staff, Branch Chiefs, and ESF's. Reviewing Action Tracking entries and providing technical assistance to state agencies and localities as needed. Conducting conference calls with state agencies and localities as needed.

FINANCE SECTION

Emergency Management: (ESF 5)

VDEM

Providing Reservist availability, processing timesheets, aiding in staffing, tracking expenditures, procuring equipment and supplies to the VEOC.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Public Information (ESF 15):

VDEM

The Virginia Public Inquiry Center (VPIC) is open to answer questions and field concerns from citizens. The VPIC telephone number is 1-866-880-4288, hours of operation are 8 am to 5 pm. **39 calls reported for September 15th. A total of 759 calls reported since the VPIC opened on September 2nd.** The Public Affairs Office handled 2 phone calls September 15th. A Joint Information Center (JIC) has been established at Town Pickett. Updated www.vaemergency.com with the latest information. ***Through the media and the web, evacuees are being encouraged to contact the Red Cross chapter in their host community, register with FEMA, and visit the local Department of Social Services to apply for other emergency assistance programs.***

The Legislative Liaison, in conjunction with the Recovery Manager, is responding to Senator William Wampler's request concerning evacuee assistance.

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Region I:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities. A 7 person Incident Management Team from Chesterfield County deployed to the New Orleans Fire Emergency Operations Center (EMAC). Chesterfield Counties Mobile Command Post deployed to Baton Rouge in support of Louisiana State Police (EMAC).

Region II:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities.

Region III:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities.

Region IV:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities.

Region V:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities. Virginia Beach Department of Human Services opened an evacuee Assistance Center on September 7th.

Region VI:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities.

Region VII:

Identifying resources to impact areas and Town Pickett. Monitoring fuel supply. Managing arrival of evacuees in the localities. Six person Incident Management Team from Arlington County deployed and onsite working from the New Orleans Police Department Emergency Operations Center (EMAC). Two ten-person Incident

Management Teams from Arlington County deployed to assist the New Orleans Emergency Operations Center (EMAC). ***VDEM Regional Coordinator deployed with one of the Arlington County teams.*** Six person Incident Management Team from Fairfax County deployed and onsite working from the NASA Complex Mississippi (EMAC). Four person IMT deployed to Louisiana Office of Emergency Management in Baton Rouge. Thirty person IMT deployed to Harrison County Mississippi for State Emergency Management Office. Fifty person fire fighting task force with equipment deployed to Hancock County Fire Command.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

FEMA:

State Liaison Officer working out of Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC). FEMA has set up a donations hotline at 1-800-440-6728. ***4,271 evacuees have registered through FEMA's teleregistration number after having relocated to Virginia on their own and now list Virginia as their temporary address: 3,585 from Louisiana, 675 from Mississippi and 11 from Alabama.*** Although applicants are listed in localities throughout the Commonwealth there are over 100 FEMA registered individuals or families in the following localities: Alexandria, Arlington, Chesapeake, Hampton, Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond City and Virginia Beach. As of September 11th all flights out of New Orleans transporting evacuees have been suspended and states are asked to stand down.

Department of Health and Human Services:

Established a website (<https://volunteer.hhs.gov>) and toll-free number (1-866-KAT-MEDI) to help identify private sector health care professionals and relief personnel to assist in Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

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